

## THE STATUS OF THE CASSINI MISSION

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The Cassini spacecraft was launched in October, 1997. Since that time it has been on an interplanetary trajectory toward Saturn. It arrives at Saturn and goes into orbit about the planet on July 1, 2004. *En route*, Cassini has flown by Venus, Earth, and Jupiter. Each of these events obtained new scientific results. The Cassini flyby of Jupiter, together with Galileo, provided the first-ever conjunction of two spacecraft at an outer planet. This was a unique opportunity for investigating the giant planet's magnetic field and the properties of the jovian system. It provided an ideal time for intensive observations of Jupiter. We have examples of scientific cooperation with investigators using Galileo, Hubble, Chandra, and ground-based observatories. The results achieved at Jupiter were no less than stunning (Nature **415**, 965-1005, February 28, 2002). Recent results and the current status of the spacecraft and mission will be discussed.

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